



**Article 1**

- [Responsive Government](#)

**Article 2**

- [Opening Doors for Women](#)

**Article 3**

- [Meeting Outstanding Women](#)

**Article 4**

- [Project Advancement](#)

**Article 5**

- [Outreach](#)

**[Previous Editions](#)**



## Creating Opportunities



### Opening Doors for Women

**Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao continues to create opportunities for working women so they can reach their potential.**

On May 10th, Secretary Elaine L. Chao gave a keynote address at the 3rd annual Asian Pacific American (APA) Federal Career Advancement Summit in Washington, D.C. The purpose was to help APA women (and men) who are federal government employees to move up in the federal government. The summit was full of workshops and advice to help them advance. In fact, the Women's Bureau supported this event. Director Shinae Chun was a mentor.

Secretary Chao also spoke at the Violence Against Women Summit in Anchorage, Alaska on June 30th. "I know that many women face great challenges as they balance careers and family...And many face the greatest challenge - the tragedy and betrayal of violence in their homes or in their workplace", said Secretary Chao. She understood why the summit was so important, in helping women reach their potential, and she cited two Women's Bureau programs that can help these women:



Flex-Options for Women, which provides models for helping women manage work and family responsibilities. The Secretary mentioned how this can be crucial for women who are victims of violence, since they may need time off to go to court, take a child to the doctor or take care of other family responsibilities. For more information, please visit the website at [www.we-inc.org](http://www.we-inc.org)



Wi\$e Up is a course which teaches women how to build financial security by managing household budgets, learning to save and using credit wisely. These are very important tools for women who are rebuilding their lives and for those who will be managing their family budgets for the first time. For more information, please visit the website at [www.wiseupwomen.org](http://www.wiseupwomen.org).

And finally, the Secretary spoke at the Montana 2004 Conference on July 29th, stating that women nationwide are "changing our society for the better" and that the U.S. Department of Labor and the Bush Administration have worked to ensure that all women have an opportunity to achieve their employment and financial goals. "It's great to be here to share with Montana women the tremendous resources available at the U.S. Department of Labor to help women access skills training, educational opportunities, employment and retirement security services. We want women to realize their dreams," said Secretary Chao. She continued by stating that the Women's Bureau offers programs to help women train for jobs in expanding career fields (such as GEM-Nursing, GEM-SET, and Wi\$e Up).

The Women's Bureau is proud to support the Secretary and her outreach to various groups of women.

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 [Back to Top](#)

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